

Kentucky Department of Education
Science Adoption 2008-2014

Provided by the Publisher	ISBN - 9780153670114		Publisher - Harcourt School Publishers (HSP)		Provided by the Publisher
	Kentucky Kindergarten Program				
	Type - P2	Author - Bell, et al			
	Copyright - 2009	Edition - First	Readability - N/A		
	Course -		Grade(s) - K		
	Teacher Edition ISBN if applicable				

Overall Recommendation:

☒ **Recommended as Basal**

Overall Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

Strengths:

- *Organization is teacher-friendly and comprehensive.
- *Music CD addresses learning styles/multiple intelligences.
- *Opportunities for graphing, sorting and comparing.

Weaknesses:

- *Lacks variety of forms in presentation of information: primarily text/picture-based.

CRITERIA

This basal resource ...

A. Encompasses KY Content Standards & Grade Level Expectations

- ☒ **Strong Evidence**
☐ **Moderate Evidence**
☐ **Little or No Evidence**

☐ Text is designed to be used in an elective course outside the Program of Studies

1) Includes the 7 Big Ideas of science to the following extent:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| a) Structure and Transformation of Matter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| b) Motion and Forces | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| c) The Earth and the Universe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| d) Unity and Diversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| e) Biological Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| f) Energy Transformation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| g) Interdependence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Little | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

2) Addresses content-specific enduring understandings from the related Program of Studies standards.

- ☒ Strong
 ☐ Moderate
 ☐ Little
 ☐ N/A

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3) **Addresses content-specific skills and concepts from the related Program of Studies standards.** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

4) **Content addressed is current, relevant and non-trivial** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

5) **Provides opportunities for critical thinking/reasoning** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

6) **Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:**

- Specific strengths-which areas/concepts are covered exceptionally well?
- Specific weaknesses-which areas/concepts would likely require supplementing?

*Big Idea 5 (Biological Change) is not included in the correlation found at the end of the teacher's edition. It was not evidenced in the materials.

*Correlations section in the back of the teacher edition shows connections between lessons and Kentucky Program of Studies and Core Content for Assessment.

*The divider tabs for content sections in the teacher edition list applicable Kentucky standards and DOK levels for each unit.

*Strong coverage of concepts for all Big Ideas, with the exception of 5. (See comment above.)

B. Functionality & Suitability

☒ **Strong Evidence**
☐ **Moderate Evidence**
☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) **Suitability** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Should be suitable for use with a diverse population and is free of bias regarding race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, social and/or geographic environment; is free of stereotyping or bias of any kind.

2) **Content quality** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Free from factual errors
- Content is presented conceptually when possible—more than a mere collection of facts
- Content included accurately represents the knowledge base of the discipline
- Theories/scientific models contained represent a broad consensus of the scientific community

3) **Connections to Literacy** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little
Note: may apply to either student or teacher editions

- Employs a variety of reading levels and is grade/level appropriate
- Contains pre, during, post reading activities
- Provides opportunities for summarizing, reviewing, and reinforcing vocabulary skills and concepts at multiple levels of difficulty for a variety of learning styles.
- Student text provides opportunity to integrate reading and writing
- Uses vocabulary that is age and content appropriate
- Focuses on critical vocabulary vs. extensive lists
- Identifies key vocabulary through definitions in both text and glossary

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- Engaging text- does the text facilitate learning?
- Does understanding the text require having performed the imbedded activities?

4) Connections to Technology

☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Integrates technology and reflects the impact of technological advances
- Uses technology in the collection and/or manipulation of authentic data

5) Support for Diverse Learners

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides support for ESL students
- Provides support for differentiation of instruction in diverse classrooms

Note: may apply only to teacher edition

6) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

*A CD with concept songs and rhymes is included in the essential components, as are transparencies of inquiry activities and a book of teaching transparencies. We did not find references to other types or uses of technology in this kit.

*Several references were found for ESL/ELL accommodations in the Differentiated Instruction Support section in the teacher's edition. The Assessment and Teaching Resources Handbook also contains letters in English and Spanish. Blackline masters are available in Spanish, but in a separate book, which is not a part of the essential components or gratis materials.

*Literacy connections are made through lists of related trade books, which also include summaries of those books. A reading focus skill is identified at the beginning of each lesson.

*Sets of leveled readers provided additional content information at various reading levels.

*Vocabulary in the text is age appropriate and photographs are appealing.

C. Supports Inquiry and Skill Development

☒ **Strong Evidence**
☐ **Moderate Evidence**
☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) Promotes Inquiry, research and Application of Learning

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities for inquiry and research that includes activities such as self-selecting topics, formulating authentic questions, gathering information, researching resources, observing, interviewing, and evaluating information, analyzing and synthesizing data and communicating findings and conclusions.
- Requires students to use higher-level cognitive skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, etc.)
- Provides activities and projects for students to deepen their knowledge and cultivate and strengthen problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Provides opportunities for application of learned concepts.
- Uses a variety of relevant charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, and other illustrations to invite and motivate students to engage in discussion, problem solving, and other high-order thinking skills.

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- Emphasizes conceptual understandings that invite students to predict, conclude, evaluate, develop and extend ideas to support reasoning.

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Skill Development

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities to make sense of data
- Provides opportunities for critical thinking and reasoning (analyze arguments, distinguish fact/opinion, recognize bias)
- Provides opportunities to examine a range of types of evidence
- Contains embedded activities (or extensions) that emphasize use of technology for problem solving

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

*Each lesson identifies the inquiry skills embedded in that lesson. Inquiry transparencies are part of the essential components. There is a strong emphasis on inquiry in the teacher's edition. Students are asked to graph, sort, order, predict, and compare.

*Students develop age appropriate skills through activities embedded in the lessons. However, the materials kits are not a part of the basal package.

D. Supports Best Practices of Teaching and Learning

☐ Strong Evidence
☒ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Engages Students

☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes content geared to the needs, interests, and abilities of students
- Engages and motivates students using components such as real-life situations, simulations, experiments, and data gathering.
- Includes information and activities that assist students in seeing relevance of concepts (where appropriate) to their own lives and experiences
- Provides a variety of strategies, activities, and materials to enhance student learning at the appropriate learning levels
- Activities are truly congruent to the concepts addressed, not merely correlated

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Uses Assessment to Inform Instruction

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes multiple means of assessment as an integral part of instruction
- Provides evaluation measures in the teacher edition that supports differentiated learning activities
- Embedded assessments reflect a variety of Depth of Knowledge levels

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards

*Often content is brought across through the use of books and pictures. Activities are listed in the center suggestions, but we felt the amount of embedded, engaging, hands-on investigations was a little skimpy.
*Multiple forms of assessment are included in each unit.

E. Has an Organization/ Format that Supports Learning and Teaching

☒ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Organizational Quality

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Print and/or electronic materials present minimal barriers to learners
- Presents chapters/lessons in an organized and logical sequence
- Provides clearly stated objectives for each lesson.
- Uses text features (e.g., titles, headings, subheadings, review questions, goals, objectives, space, print, type size, color) to enhance readability.
- Makes use of various forms of media (e.g., CD's, recordings, videos, cassette tapes, computer software, web-based components) as either student or teacher resources
- Includes clear, accurate, appropriate and clearly explained illustrations and/or graphics that reinforce content standards.
- Incorporates a glossary, footnotes, recordings, pictures, and/or tests that aid pupils and teachers in using the book effectively
- Uses grade-appropriate type size

Included media are durable, easy to use and have technical merit

- Construction appears to be durable and able to withstand normal use

2) Essential Components (beyond student and teacher text)

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Items identified as essential components support the learning goals and concept coverage of the basal

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

*A unit and lesson planner is included in each section. This includes objectives, pacing suggestions, vocabulary, applicable resources and investigations. This is a nice, concise view of the unit for planning. This is also available online.
*The teacher's guide is very comprehensive, and includes suggestions for differentiating instruction, center planning, essential questions, a form of scoring rubric for assessment in each section, and portfolio assessment suggestions.

F. Has available Ancillary/ Gratis Materials

Note: The decision whether to recommend or not recommend this resource as a basal should not be influenced by Section F

☒ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Ancillary/Gratis Materials

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-
- Coordinates teacher resources easily with student material (e.g., accompaniments included, student pages shown, instructional technology indicated).
 - Are well-organized and easy to use
 - Provide substantive learning opportunities and are congruent with student learning goals
 - Provide opportunities for high-level thinking, assessment, and/or problem solving

2) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

Blackline masters are available as ancillary materials that support the units.